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Cooperatives National Law Review
Policy Branch
NSW Fair Trading
PO Box 972
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Sir/Madam:

Consultation on new proposed Cooperatives National Law

On behalf of the Australian co-operative sector we record our appreciation for the release of the proposed Cooperatives National Law.

After so many years, Co-operatives Australia welcomes this evidence of progress in the development of the Cooperatives National Law. We are concerned, however, that the proposed closure date of 26 February 2010 for submissions is inappropriate because of the substantial documentation and the Xmas/New Year period and, therefore, the impossibility and impracticality of providing meaningful feedback. We suggest, instead, that an extension of time is necessary and we would recommend the end of April 2010 as more appropriate. After this long period of gestation, our mutual concern should be to get it right and for this to be achieved an extended consultation period is required.

We have also noted that according to the regulatory impact statement, Cooperatives a national approach, consultation will take place at two levels – State and Territory consultation and a National consultation. For the national consultation, Co-operatives Australia should, of course, be included as a stakeholder. Integral to the consultation process is a formal consultation meeting with Co-operatives Australia to discuss the proposed Cooperatives National Law and this could be organised early next year. There have been such meetings in the past and these have been mutually beneficial.

Thank for your consideration and should you require any additional background information I can be contacted on (03) 9785 6542

David Griffiths
A/Chairman

Co-operatives Australia is the national body for State Co-operative Federations. It is an unincorporated body with membership by the Co-operative Federations of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia, and represents cooperatives in every sector of the Australian economy.